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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/485,657	
	Filing Date	March 24, 2000	
	First Named Inventor	ANDREWS, Leonard, Colin	
	Art Unit	2643 or 2644	
	Examiner Name	Unknown	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	31	Attorney Docket Number	AAP 7039

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Protest Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.291(A)
Remarks		RECEIVED AUG 02 2004 Technology Center 2600

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Arlir M. Amado, Reg. No. 51,399
Signature	
Date	July 28, 2004

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ANDREWS, Leonard, Colin

Appln. No.: 09/485,657 (Nat'l Phase of
PCT/AU98/00647)

Filed: March 24, 2000

For: A DISTRIBUTED STEREO
SYSTEM

Technology Center: 2600

Art Unit: 2643 or 2644

Examiner: Unknown

PROTEST UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.291(A)

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Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.291, the undersigned Attorney hereby submits, on behalf of an unnamed member of the public, the following information relevant to the examination of the above-identified application.

The above-identified application is directed to a distributed stereo audio system used to provide stereo sound to several rooms or areas from a single source of signal. The undersigned attorney would like to bring to the attention of the Examiner the following potentially material art.

Christopher Lloyd, *Multi-room hi-fi takes control of the home*, The Sunday Times, May 28, 1995, at 2-9.

Wickelgren, I.J., "The facts about Firewire," *IEEE Spectrum*, April 1997, pp. 20-25.

Radiotron Designer's Handbook, pp. 1198-1199 (F. Langford-Smith, Ed., 1953).

Gold, A., "Linn Knekt multi-room system," *Gramophone*, December 1996, pp. 198-200.

Cherum, J., "Scottish Rites-Linn Knekt Multi-room system," *Home Theater*, March 1998.

These references are also cited in the attached PTO Form 1449.

Specifically, claim 1 of the published PCT application (PCT/AU98/00647) (the above-identified U.S. Patent Application is a national phase of this PCT application) is as follows:

1. A distributed stereo audio system, including: two or more speakers for the broadcast of stereo audio signals, a source of stereo audio signals, a stereo amplifier to amplify stereo audio signals and drive the speakers, and a mains operated electrical power supply to provide power to the amplifier; where the amplifier is located in the same room as the speakers, and remote from the signal source and power supply; and where the amplifier is connected to the signal source and power supply by means of a category 5 four pair twisted cable (or similar) which provides, in respective conductors of the twisted pairs, right channel audio signals from the signal source to the amplifier, left channel audio from the signal source to the amplifier and DC power from the power supply to the amplifier.

Claim 1 of the published PCT application is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the art cited above, and discussed in detail below.

Lloyd discloses an audio system with remote amplifiers where signals are sent to the remote amplifiers using Category-5 cable (an unshielded twisted pair wire). Wickelgren discloses a cable with a plurality of twisted pairs to be used for carrying audio signals and wires for carrying power, all within the cable. Radiotron's Designers Handbook discloses the use of a pair of twisted wires to carry power to cancel out magnetic fields and reduce hum levels. As such, it would have been obvious to modify Lloyd by the use of the plurality of twisted wires in the cables disclosed by Wickelgren (wherein the plurality of twisted wires comprises both a twisted pair of audio wires and two power wires) and further modify the cable by replacing the two power wires disclosed by Wickelgren with the pair of twisted power wires disclosed by Radiotron's Designers Handbook, to arrive at a distributed stereo audio system with remote amplifiers in which audio signals are sent to the remote amplifiers using the same Category-5 cable as that used to carry the power. Such a modified system has all of the elements set out in claim 1 of PCT/AU98/00647 (of which the above-identified application is a national phase of). Namely, a distributed audio system with:

- (a) two or more speakers;
- (b) a source of stereo audio signals;

- (c) a power supply;
- (d) a stereo amplifier remote from the stereo audio signal source and power supply; and
- (e) a category 5 cable connecting the amplifiers to both the signal source and power supply.

Claims that recite each of these elements should be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over Christopher Lloyd, *Multi-room hi-fi takes control of the home*, The Sunday Times, May 28, 1995, at 2-9, in view of Wickelgren, I.J., "The facts about Firewire," *IEEE Spectrum*, April 1997, pp. 20-25, and further in view of Radiotron Designer's Handbook, pp. 1198-1199 (F. Langford-Smith, Ed., 1953), for at least the reasons set forth above.

Subject matter similar to that claimed in published PCT application PCT/AU98/00647 was claimed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/090,242 (the '242 application). The claims of the '242 application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for being unpatentable over Christopher Lloyd, *Multi-room hi-fi takes control of the home*, The Sunday Times, May 28, 1995, at 2-9, in view of Wickelgren, I.J., "The facts about Firewire," *IEEE Spectrum*, April 1997, pp. 20-25, and further in view of Radiotron Designer's Handbook, pp. 1198-1199 (F. Langford-Smith, Ed., 1953). A copy of the Official Action mailed in September of 2001 in connection with the '242 application is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The undersigned Attorney considers the above-identified references to be potentially material references and as such should be considered by the Examiner when examining the above-identified patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Arlir M. Amado
Reg. No.: 51,399

Date: July 28, 2004



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the Protest Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.291(a) for U.S. Patent Application No. 09/485,657, was served by First Class Mail on Applicant's attorney:

F.B. Rice & Co.
605 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041
AUSTRALIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arlir M. Amado".

Arlir M. Amado
Reg. No. 51,399

Date: July 28, 2004